



County Workforce Investment Board approves advanced manufacturing training

The San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board approved the development of a customized training program for manufacturing employees, in conjunction with Chaffey and San Bernardino Valley College. The advanced manufacturing training program will provide skill enhancement classes for entry and mid-level employees.

Despite popular beliefs, the manufacturing industry is alive and well in San Bernardino County and in need of employees. The manufacturing industry, which provides more than 115,400 jobs in the county, is forecasted to grow 12 percent to 129,300 jobs in the next six years. Manufacturers are having difficulty recruiting skilled laborers from the local workforce and they need help from the San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board to properly train current employees for advancement in existing job openings.

The San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board is contributing \$100,000 to establish the advanced manufacturing training program, with the goal of it becoming a self-supporting system. The customized training will allow manufacturing employees to advance in their careers and increase their pay substantially.

Upon completion of the training, manufacturing employees can expect a pay increase between 25 and 35 percent per hour depending their job level and place of an employment. The average yearly entry-level wage of manufacturing positions is \$51,135, which exceeds the average household income of San Bernardino County by \$9,069.

Local manufacturers have participated in establishing a curriculum that will satisfy their employment needs. The manufacturers participating in the program development are: California Steel Industries in

Fontana, Tamco Steel of Rancho Cucamonga, Steelscape in Rancho Cucamonga, Schlosser Forge, in Rancho Cucamonga, and S & D Specialty and Stockmar Industrial, both of Fontana.

These not-for-credit classes will be held at Chaffey College, San Bernardino Valley College and Fontana Unified School District. Classes are scheduled to start in May and will occur over an 18-month period, training a minimum of 48 employees for career advancement.

Companies interested in additional information about this training venture or wishing to join the training effort should contact the Workforce Investment Board by calling 388-4389.

The San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board is a policy driven board comprised of private business representatives and public partners.

It strives to develop a strong, vibrant economy and workforce through partnerships with business, education and community-based organizations, along with its Employment Resource Centers. The ERC provides individuals with job training, placement and the tools to strengthen their skills to achieve a higher quality of life.